

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	Application Number	PCT/AU00/01022
	Filing Date	August 29, 2000
	First Named Inventor	Colin John Hunter
	Group Art Unit	Unassigned
	Examiner Name	Unassigned
	Attorney Docket Number	2145-133
Title of the Invention: Improved Bacterial Oxidation of Sulphide Ores and Concentrates		

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17 and substitute the following new claims.

18. A process for bacterial oxidation of sulphide ores or concentrates characterised in that an ore or concentrate is leached with a mixed bacterial culture operative across a temperature range of about 40 to 65 °C, the mixed bacterial culture having been adapted to the ore or concentrate prior to leaching.

19. A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the ore or concentrate is leached with the mixed bacterial culture in a heap leach, tank leach, vat leach or dump leach.

20. A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the ore or concentrate is either of a base metal, a precious metal or platinum group metal.

21. A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the sulphide ore or concentrate contains chalcopyrite.